

DEC 15 1999

QUARTERLY REPORT PERFORMANCE NOTIFICATION

MANUFACTURER: Freightliner Corporation

QRP99-027

MANUFACTURER CONTACT: Mr. Gary Rossow

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The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has received Freightliner's quarterly reports for the quarter ending September 30, 1999, as required under Federal Regulation 49 CFR Part 573.6. The following safety recall campaigns are being reviewed:

99V-033.003: 503 Freightliner 1996-1998 Custom Chassis Corporation Model MT35 and MT45 step vans manufactured from May 2, 1996 through November 11, 1998. The tie rod end can pull outboard and separate from the tie rod tube due to improper thread engagement between the male tie rod end and the female tube. Separation of the tie rod end could result in loss of steering control, increasing the risk of a vehicle crash. **Freightliner Campaign No. FL-233.** Freightliner's first quarterly report for this campaign indicates that only 3 of the vehicles recalled have been inspected and remedied leaving the completion rate at .6 percent.

99V-055.002: 284 Freightliner vehicles manufactured in January 1999, and equipped with Meritor automatic slack adjusters. Some of the automatic slack adjusters had insufficient torque applied to the guide pawl cap screw. Without sufficient torque on the guide pawl cap screw, the brakes could gradually lose adjustment, increasing the vehicle stopping distance. **Freightliner Recall No. FL-231.** Freightliner's second quarterly report for this campaign indicates that only 43 of the vehicles recalled have been inspected and remedied leaving the completion rate at 15.1 percent.

We are requesting that Freightliner provide ODI with its explanation as to why the recall completion rate is so low no later than **December 30, 1999.**

ODI is concerned about the low completion rate for these safety recall campaigns and would like to see a meaningful increase in the completion rate in future reporting quarters.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call:

151 Kelly Schuler on (202) 366-5227,
Jon White, Chief on (202) 366-5226 or,
Fax on (202) 366-7882
Recall Analysis Division